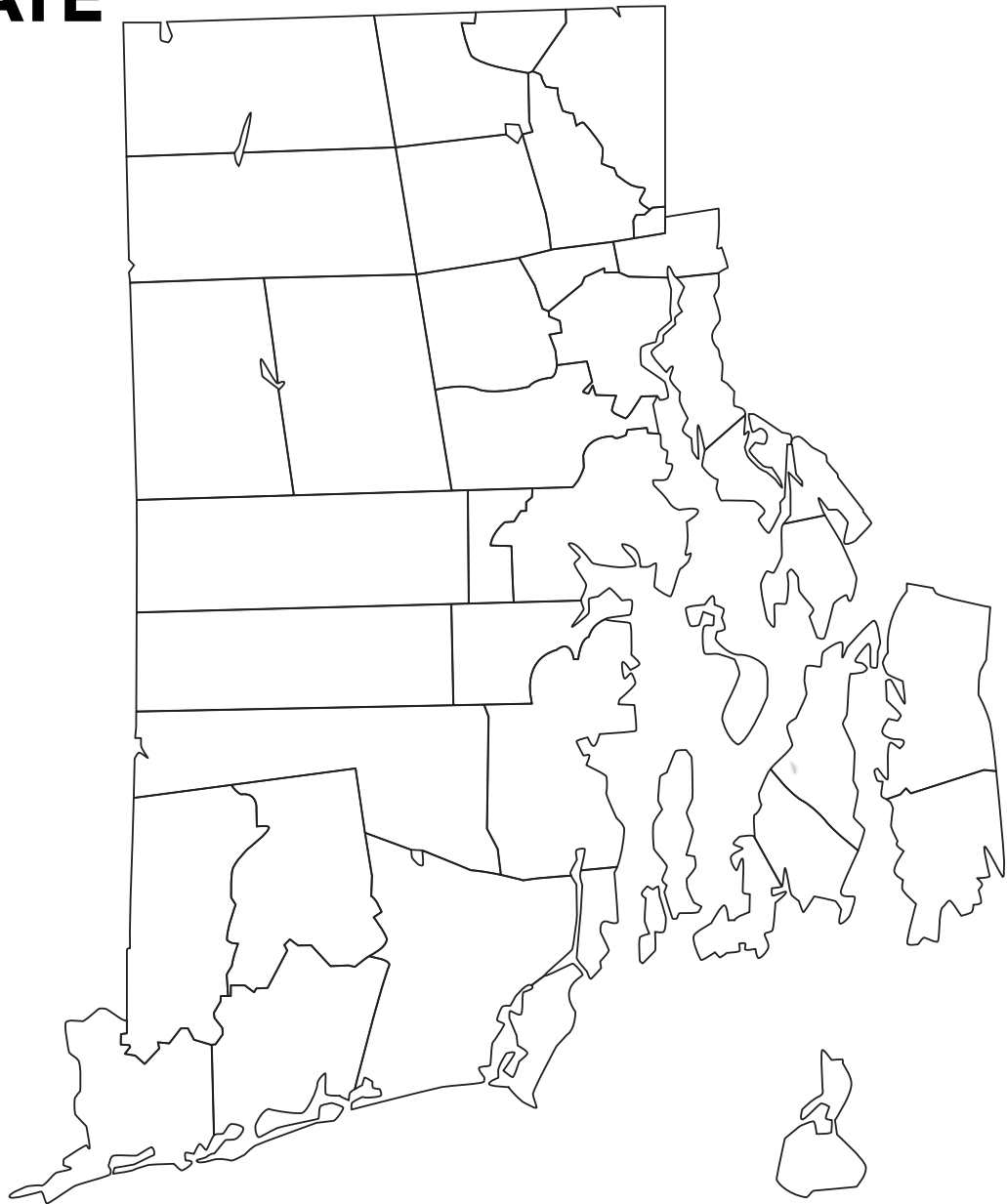


A GUIDE TO RHODE ISLAND GOVERNMENT & HISTORY



OUR STATE



What city or town do you live in?

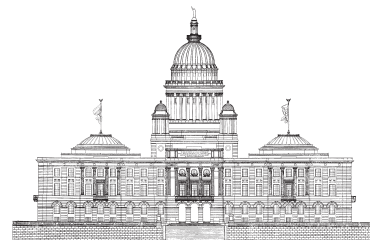
Can you identify each city and town on the map?

Barrington
Bristol
Burrillville
Central Falls
Charlestown
Coventry
Cranston
Cumberland
East Greenwich
East Providence

Exeter
Foster
Glocester
Hopkinton
Jamestown
Johnston
Lincoln
Little Compton
Middletown
Narragansett

New Shoreham (Block Island)
Newport
North Kingstown
North Providence
North Smithfield
Pawtucket
Portsmouth
Providence
Richmond
Scituate

Smithfield
South Kingstown
Tiverton
Warren
Warwick
West Greenwich
West Warwick
Westerly
Woonsocket



As Secretary of State, I want all Rhode Islanders to know about our amazing state and to understand how our government works. This book has information about Rhode Island, our State House, and our government. I know you will enjoy learning about our state's rich history and its important contributions to the growth and prosperity of the United States of America.

I encourage you to visit our magnificent State House where you can see the treasures described in this book, and learn even more about how our state government works. Visit the rooms where laws are made and learn more about how you can have a voice in decisions that affect you. We offer free guided tours every weekday, except holidays. To schedule a tour call us at (401) 222-3983 or email us at tours@sos.ri.gov.

You can also learn more about Rhode Island and our State House by visiting our website at sos.ri.gov. There you will find lots of historic documents, virtual exhibits, and other information, all available 24 hours a day.

I hope you will love learning about our state and its fascinating history as much as I do. It makes me proud to call Rhode Island my home.

Sincerely,


Nellie M. Gorbea
Secretary of State

Rhode Island
Department of State


Rhode Island State House
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903


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SOURCES
www.discoveryeducation.com
Rhode Island State Library
Rhode Island State Archives

Special thanks to Tim Howe from Tolman High School, and his students, Charlize Lopez and Kaela Stefanik, for proposing incorporating math problems into this book.



RHODE ISLAND

HISTORY OF ITS NAME

Rhode Island was originally called the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations. This long name – the longest of any state in America – was its official name from 1663 until 2020, when Rhode Islanders voted to remove “and Providence Plantations” from the state’s name. Today the name is State of Rhode Island.

The first use of “Rhode Island” or any of its variations in connection with Narragansett Bay, is in a letter from Italian explorer Giovanni da Verrazzano dated July 8, 1524. In the letter he refers to an island near the mouth of Narragansett Bay, noting its similarity to the Isle of Rhodes in the Aegean Sea. The phrase “Providence Plantations” came from a 1643 Parliamentary Patent, the first

official document that united the towns Providence, Portsmouth, and Newport. England’s Commission on Foreign Plantations granted the patent and named the towns: “the Incorporation of Providence Plantations in Narragansett Bay in New England.” At that time, plantations were places where colonists established farms and grew crops. The 1663 Royal Charter united the two earlier descriptive names, officially naming the territory the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations.

To learn more about the 2020 decision to change the state name, please turn to page 10.

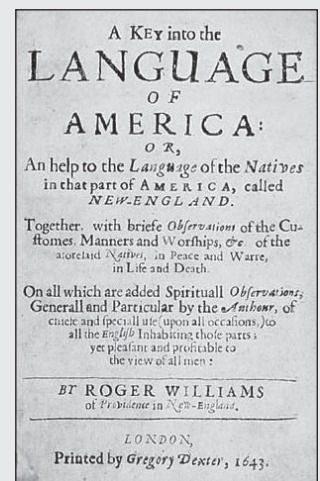
THE FIRST RHODE ISLANDERS

Rhode Island’s earliest inhabitants were members of the Narragansett, Wampanoag, Nipmuc, and Pequot tribes. For thousands of years, they fished, hunted, and grew crops throughout the land we call Rhode Island. They lived in extended family groups and did not establish permanent settlements, moving inland from the coast during the colder months, never exhausting the land or its resources.

Beginning in 1620, colonial settlers from Plymouth and Massachusetts Bay colonies came to the region to trade with the indigenous people. In 1635, William Blackstone became the first European settler to build a permanent home in present-day Rhode Island. It was on the banks of a river now named after him, the Blackstone River, in Cumberland.

FunFact!

When Roger Williams arrived in New England, he learned the language of the indigenous people. In 1643, he wrote *A Key into the Language of America* which includes translations of Native American words to English.



Indigenous people continue to live throughout Rhode Island, and we use many of their words in our everyday life. Here are three words with their original meanings:

Narragansett	Wampanoag	Aquidneck
People of the small point of land.	People of the first light.	At the island.

Do any of these words look familiar?

Sakonnet	Pawtucket	Metacom
Touisset	Ninigret	Quonset
Kickemuit	Massasoit	Wamsutta

Can you add to this list?

COLONIAL HISTORY

Roger Williams founded the first permanent colonial settlement in Rhode Island in 1636, on land granted to him by Narragansett chiefs Canonicus and Miantonomi. He named the settlement Providence.

Banished from Massachusetts for speaking out about religious tolerance, Williams established a policy of religious freedom in Providence. Other leaders advocating freedom of worship soon established similar communities around Narragansett Bay.

Over the next few decades, thousands of settlers came to Rhode Island. In 1675, the tension created by their growing need for land led to war. King Philip's War, named for Wampanoag leader Metacomet



who was also known as Philip, lasted only 14 months, but it permanently changed Rhode Island. Thousands of indigenous people were killed. Survivors fled or were captured and sold into slavery.

In the 1700s, Rhode Island became a major participant in the trans-Atlantic maritime trade which included the enslavement of Africans. African heritage people, both enslaved and free,

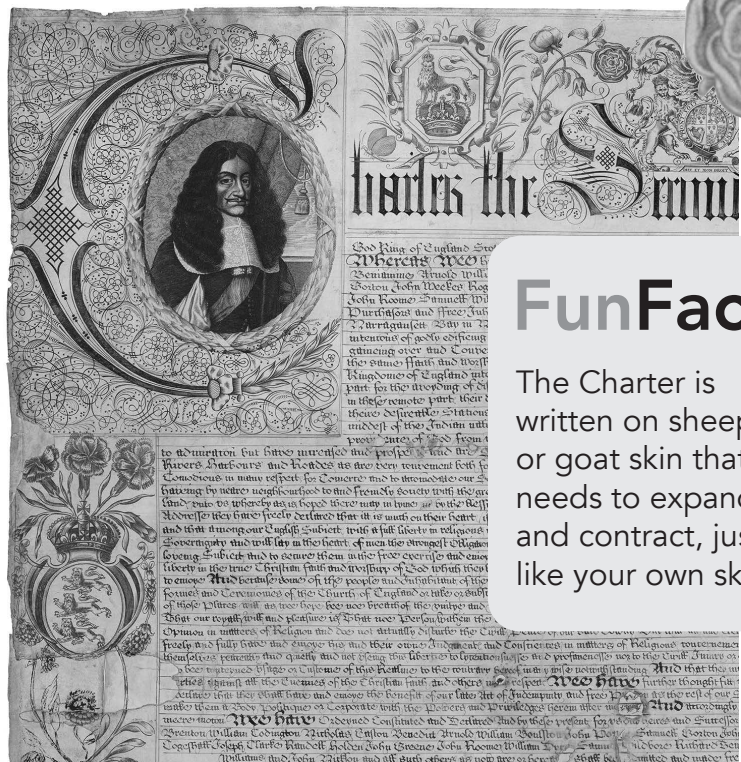
were a significant portion of the population in the urban seaports of Newport, Providence, and Bristol, and on the working farms of western Rhode Island.

The colonial period came to an end in 1776. Rhode Island was the first colony to renounce its allegiance to the king on May 4th of that year. The Declaration of Independence followed exactly two months later.

ROYAL CHARTER

The Royal Charter of 1663 guaranteed Rhode Island settlers freedom of religion and the freedom to govern their own colony. Rhode Island was the first colony in New England to be granted these freedoms by King Charles II of England.

The Charter is in the care of the Secretary of State, who has been the keeper of records since the colonial period. It is on display in the Royal Charter Museum located in the Rhode Island State House. Alongside the Charter are other documents and artifacts that tell the story of Rhode Island's colonial settlement and represent its important place in history.



FunFact

The Charter is written on sheep or goat skin that needs to expand and contract, just like your own skin.

HISTORIC HIGHLIGHTS

1600

1636

Narragansett chiefs Canonicus and Miantonomi grant Roger Williams the land which becomes Providence.



1638

Anne Hutchinson is expelled from Massachusetts and helps found Pocasset (Portsmouth).

1640

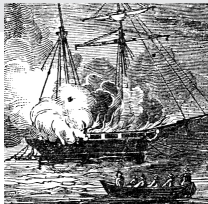
Newport establishes a Common Burying Ground for all residents regardless of race or religion.



1663

The Royal Charter guarantees Rhode Islanders the right to freedom of religion and to govern themselves.

1700



1772

In the first armed act of rebellion against England, Rhode Islanders attack and burn the British ship *Gaspee*.

1774

Providence citizens are the first to propose the idea of a Continental Congress at their town meeting.



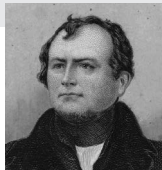
1776

Rhode Island is the first colony to repeal its allegiance to the British Crown.

1778

The 1st Rhode Island Regiment, comprised of African American and Native American men, participates in the Battle of Rhode Island.

1800



1841-1842

The Dorr Rebellion leads to the expansion of voting rights to citizens who don't own land.

1853

Rhode Island firm Brown & Sharpe standardizes measurement tools, revolutionizing mass production.



1885

Reverend Mahlon van Horne is the first African American man to be elected to the General Assembly.

1900

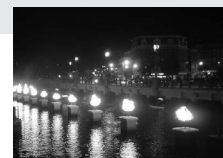


1917

Rhode Island is the first New England state to allow women to vote for Presidential Electors.

1936

Rhode Island is the first state in the nation to use voting machines in every voting district in the state.



1994

The first WaterFire lighting is made possible by a complete redesign of Providence which includes uncovering long buried rivers.

2000



2016

America's first offshore windfarm is built off the coast of Block Island.

2020

Rhode Islanders vote to remove "Providence Plantations" from the state's name.

How will you contribute to Rhode Island's future?

WOMEN IN OUR HISTORY



Elizabeth Buffum Chace Memorial (1806–1899)
Elizabeth Buffum Chace fought to end slavery and was a co-founder of the Rhode Island Women's Suffrage Association. She also believed in the value of education, helping to create a state school for homeless children.



Christiana Carteaux Bannister Memorial (1822–1902)
Christiana Carteaux Bannister was an entrepreneur, equal rights activist, and supporter of the arts. She founded the Home for Aged Colored Women which is known as Bannister House today.

FAMOUS FIRST

Newport resident Ann Smith Franklin, Benjamin Franklin's sister-in-law, became the country's first female newspaper editor in 1762.

Christiana Carteaux Bannister and Elizabeth Buffum Chace are the first two women to have portrait busts in the Rhode Island State House.

WOMEN ELECTED TO OFFICE



First Representative in the General Assembly, 1923
Isabelle Ahearn O'Neill (D)



First Attorney General, 1985
Arlene Violet (R)



First General Treasurer, 1993
Nancy J. Mayer (R)



First Senator in the General Assembly, 1929
Lulu Mowry Schlesinger (R)



Secretary of State Nellie M. Gorbea, the first Hispanic elected to statewide office, commissioned this sculpture to honor these pioneering women.



First Lieutenant Governor, 2007
Elizabeth H. Roberts (D)



First Representative in Congress, 1981
Claudine Schneider (R)



First Senate President, 2008
M. Teresa Paiva Weed (D)



First Secretary of State, 1983
Susan L. Farmer (R)



First Governor, 2015
Gina M. Raimondo (D)

FAMOUS FIRST

Forty-six years before women were permitted to vote, Anna E. Aldrich, Elizabeth C. Hicks, and Abby J. Slocum took advantage of a provision in the state's constitution that allowed "non-

electors" to serve on school committees and ran for office. Each was elected to the Providence School Committee, setting a precedent for women in public office in Rhode Island.

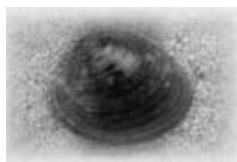
STATE SYMBOLS



STATE BIRD

Rhode Island Red

Adopted on May 3, 1954.
Rhode Island Reds lay up to 300 brown eggs a year.



STATE SHELL

Quahog

Adopted on June 30, 1987.
Quahog shells were shaped into beads and used as currency in the 1600s and 1700s.



STATE FLOWER

Violet

Adopted on March 11, 1968.
Violets are often purple and bloom in the spring.



STATE FISH

The Striped Bass

Adopted on July 13, 2000.
Striped Bass average 20-30 inches and can live 30 years or more.



STATE MINERAL

Bowenite

Adopted on May 26, 1966.
Bowenite, found in northern Rhode Island, is a relative of jade.



STATE DRINK

Coffee Milk

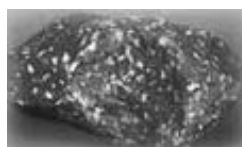
Adopted on July 29, 1993.
Coffee milk mixed with vanilla ice cream is called a "cabinet."



STATE TREE

Red Maple

Adopted on March 6, 1964.
Red Maple leaves turn gold, purple, and red in the fall.



STATE ROCK

Cumberlandite

Adopted on May 6, 1966.
Cumberlandite is a dark rock with white markings found throughout the state.



STATE FRUIT

Greening Apple

Adopted on June 20, 1992.
Developed in Rhode Island around 1796, Greening Apples retain their sharp taste in cooking.



STATE MARINE MAMMAL

Harbor Seal

Adopted on July 14, 2016.
Harbor Seals can grow to six feet and weigh over 200 pounds.



STATE INSECT

American Burying Beetle

Adopted on July 14, 2015.
American Burying Beetles are on the federal Endangered Species List.



STATE _____

Do you have an idea for something that represents our state? Draw it here.

RHODE ISLAND

LEADING THE WAY

First diner!

Walter Scott is credited with opening the first diner in America in 1872. His diner was a horse-drawn wagon with windows along the side from which he sold food to *Providence Journal* employees.

First gas-illuminated street lights!

Pelham Street in Newport was the first street in America to be lit with gas lights!

First water-powered factory!

In 1790, Samuel Slater partnered with Moses Brown to design the first water-powered textile mill in America. Three years later he built Slater Mill in Pawtucket which you can still visit today.



First off-shore wind farm!

In 2016, America's first ocean-based wind farm was built off the coast of Block Island.

GEOGRAPHY

Area: 1,214 square miles (land & water).

Greatest Distances: North to South - 48 miles; East to West 37 miles.

Elevation: Highest - Jerimoth Hill in Foster (812 feet); lowest - sea level along Atlantic coast.

Coastline: Over 400 miles

Climate: Average January temp. 30° Fahrenheit, 1° Celsius. Average July temp. 72° Fahrenheit, 22° Celsius.

Yearly Precipitation: 44 inches average.

Population Density: Rhode Island is the second most densely populated state, after New Jersey.

Islands: The state's many islands include Aquidneck, Conanicut, Block, Prudence, Dutch, and Hog.

RHODE ISLAND STATE HOUSE

The Rhode Island State House was built between 1895 and 1904; it took nine years to build and is over 100 years old! It is made of white Georgia marble. The design for the building was done by McKim, Mead & White. The State House dome is the fourth largest self-supported marble dome in the WORLD!


The three larger ones are:

St. Peter's Basilica in Rome, Italy;
the Minnesota State Capitol; and the
Taj Mahal in India.

The State House is home to the Executive and Legislative Branches of Rhode Island's government. People who work here include: the Governor; the Lieutenant Governor; the Secretary of State; the General Treasurer; senators; and representatives.

FunFact!

Before the present State House was built, Rhode Island had five State Houses that were located in different towns in Rhode Island. Legislators held sessions in each State House at different times of the year. In an era before cars, this ensured that government was available to the people. The early State Houses were in Providence, Newport, Bristol, East Greenwich, and South Kingstown. You can still visit them today!



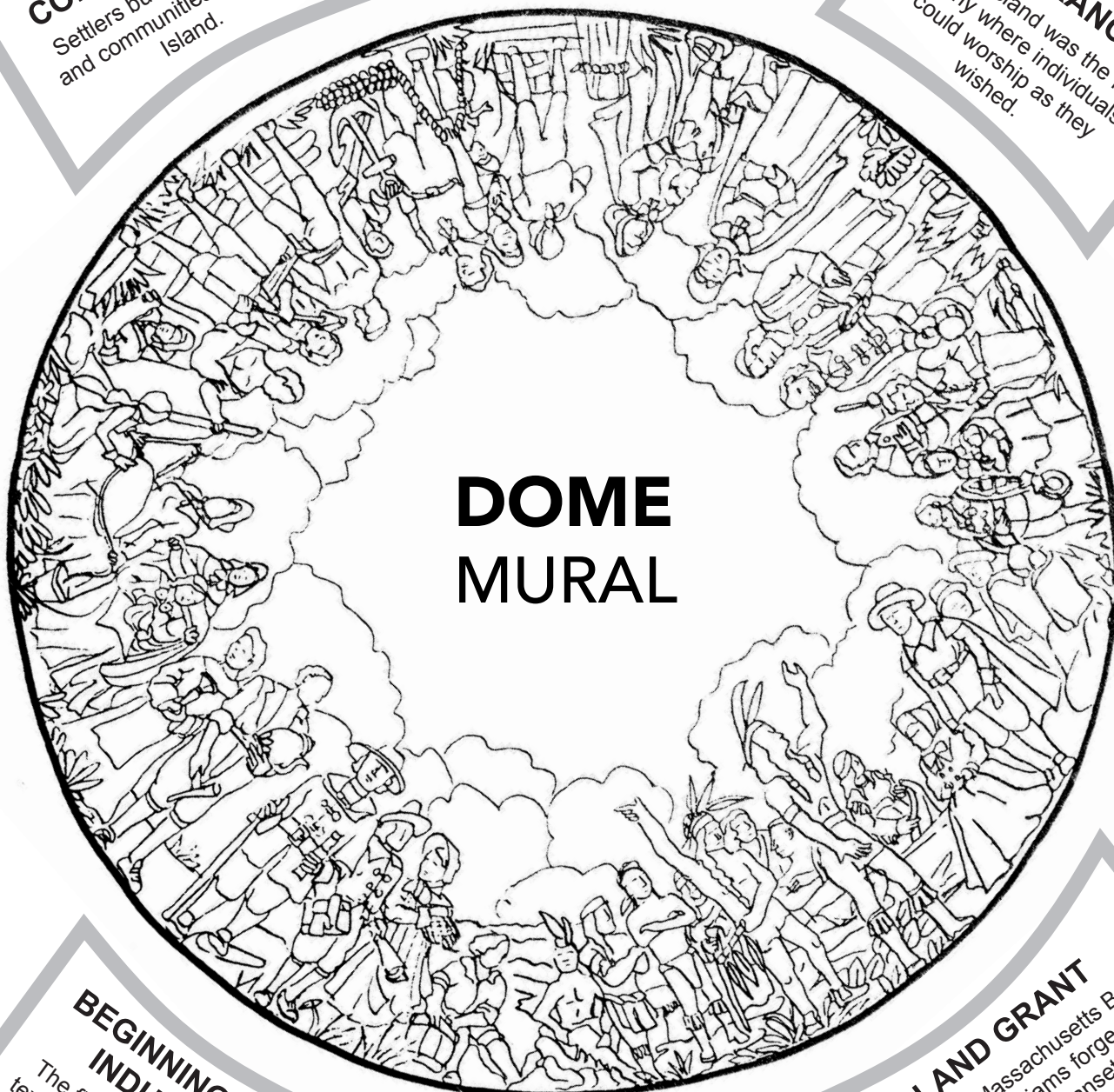
**The State House
is the
people's house;
it belongs to all
Rhode Islanders.**

PIONEERING AND THE ORIGINS OF CONSTRUCTION

Settlers built new homes
and communities in Rhode
Island.

RELIGIOUS TOLERANCE

Rhode Island was the first
colony where individuals
could worship as they
wished.



DOME MURAL

BEGINNINGS OF INDUSTRY

The first water-powered
textile mill in America was
built in Pawtucket, Rhode
Island in 1793.

THE LAND GRANT

Forced to flee Massachusetts Bay
Colony, Roger Williams forged an
agreement with Narragansett chiefs
Canonicus and Miantonomi to settle in
present-day Providence.

The State House dome has a
large mural designed by Rhode
Island artist James Allen King.
It shows four important Rhode
Island scenes. The mural was
painted by artists George
DeFelice, Robert C. Haun, and
Victor Zucchi.

INDEPENDENT MAN

He stands 235 feet above the street, weighs over 500 pounds, and is made of gilded bronze. He is eleven feet tall from head to toe, and 14 feet tall from his toes to the tip of his spear. First placed on top of the State House on December 18, 1899, he has only been taken down once for repairs and new gold leaf on August 9, 1975, and was returned on July 20, 1976.

Originally titled "Hope" by sculptor George Brewster,

the figure on top of the State House was nick-named "The Independent Man" by the Providence Journal shortly after it was installed. Given Rhode Island's proud, independent spirit, the new name stuck and the sculpture has been known as The Independent Man ever since. Standing watch over our state capitol, the figure reminds Rhode Islanders the importance of standing up for their beliefs.



FunFact! The Independent Man has been struck by lightning at least 27 times!

STATE SEAL

The State Seal in the State House rotunda has Rhode Island's original name, State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations. Today, however, the state's official name is State of Rhode Island. The change was made in 2020 when Rhode Islanders voted in a statewide referendum to remove "and Providence Plantations" from the state name.

The state's original name encircles a shield with an anchor, the state's symbol, and "hope," the state's motto. The date 1636 references the year that Roger Williams founded the settlement of Providence. A biblical phrase, "We have this hope as an anchor for our souls," would have been familiar to many 17th century Rhode Islanders.



FunFact!

Legislators proposed removing "and Providence Plantations" from the state name at least five times. The question was put to voters in 2010, however 78% of Rhode Islanders chose not to change the name. The question was on the ballot again in 2020 and this time 53% of voters chose to change the state name.

STATE ROOM



The State Room is the formal entrance to the Governor's office. The Governor leads the Executive Branch of Rhode Island's government. The State Room is also used for press conferences, meetings, and ceremonies.

The State Room has several paintings of important figures in United States and Rhode Island history. The portrait of George Washington was painted by Gilbert Stuart, a Rhode Island artist who painted many of our founding fathers. Facing George Washington is General Nathanael Greene, a Rhode Islander who was one of the most important generals during the Revolutionary War.

FunFact!

The portrait of George Washington has an interesting illusion: when you walk across the room, George Washington's eyes and toe always seem to be pointed in your direction!



STATE LIBRARY

The State Library is a magnificent three-story room that contains books about United States and Rhode Island history and government. The Library was created for the General Assembly but is open to the public. Historians, lawmakers, and even students come here to research Rhode Island history. The Secretary of State is in charge of the State Library.

The Library has a beautiful ceiling that was designed to look like the back of a leather-bound book. Among its gold decorations are 16 circular seals; these are printers' marks, or logos, from the 15th, 16th and 17th centuries. The Library also has stairs and catwalks to access the books on the upper stories. These look like they're made out of wood, but are actually iron painted to resemble wood.

The oldest book in the Library is from 1750 and contains records of Rhode Island's government when it was still a colony of England. The Library also has the official record from May 4, 1776, when Rhode Island's General Assembly renounced the colony's allegiance to King George III of England.

FunFact!

The Library has Rhode Island's souvenir from the Apollo 11 space mission: a Rhode Island flag that was flown to the moon and some moon rocks!

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

SENATE CHAMBER



The Senate and the House of Representatives make up Rhode Island's General Assembly. The General Assembly is the legislative branch of our state government. Senators and Representatives are elected by Rhode Islanders to represent them and they make laws that affect all Rhode Islanders. The General Assembly session begins the first Tuesday in January and usually ends in June. The General Assembly holds sessions Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday afternoons.

The House and Senate chambers have desks for each lawmaker. The desks have computers for legislators to review bills, and buttons that they use to vote "yes" or "no" on bills. Each room also has large, electronic tally boards with the names of each legislator. When they vote on a bill, their "yes" or "no" votes are shown on the boards so that everyone knows how each person voted.

HOUSE CHAMBER



The large desk at the front of the room is called the rostrum. The center of the rostrum is reserved for the leader of the Senate, called the Senate President, or the leader of the House of Representatives, known as the Speaker of the House of Representatives. These are the highest positions in each chamber of the General Assembly.

High above the Senate and House chambers is a special area called the gallery. The gallery allows the public to watch meetings of the General Assembly. You don't need an invitation to sit in the gallery and it's a great way to learn how laws are made!

GENERAL ASSEMBLY FACTS

38 Senators

75 Representatives

WHO IS YOUR SENATOR?

WHO IS YOUR REPRESENTATIVE?

FunFact!

The minimum age to run for town or state office in Rhode Island is 18! How soon could you run for office?

RHODE ISLAND

ELECTED OFFICIALS

CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION



Jack Reed
U.S. SENATOR



Sheldon Whitehouse
U.S. SENATOR



David Cicilline
U.S. REPRESENTATIVE
(DISTRICT 1)



James Langevin
U.S. REPRESENTATIVE
(DISTRICT 2)

GENERAL OFFICERS



Daniel McKee
GOVERNOR



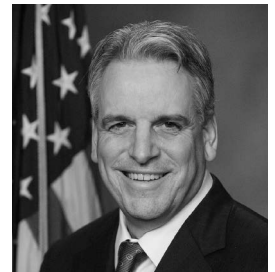
Sabina Matos
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



Nellie M. Gorbea
SECRETARY OF STATE



Seth Magaziner
GENERAL TREASURER



Peter F. Neronha
ATTORNEY GENERAL

LEADERS OF THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



Dominick J. Ruggerio
SENATE PRESIDENT



K. Joseph Shekarchi
SPEAKER OF THE
HOUSE

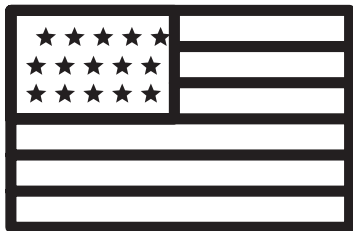
Do you want to learn more about
your government officials?

For more information about the people
who represent you in federal and state
government, visit our Voter Information
Center at

www.vote.ri.gov

GOVERNMENT BRANCHES

The US Constitution defines the structure and responsibilities of the federal government. The federal government consists of three branches: Executive, Legislative, and Judicial. Each of these branches has a specific responsibility, none more important than the other. By giving each branch an equal role, the framers of the Constitution tried to ensure that no single branch of government would become too powerful. This system is commonly called “checks and balances.” Rhode Island’s state government has a similar structure and division of responsibilities.



The Executive Branch is led by the **President** and is responsible for implementing laws.

The Legislative Branch, otherwise known as **Congress**, is responsible for making laws.

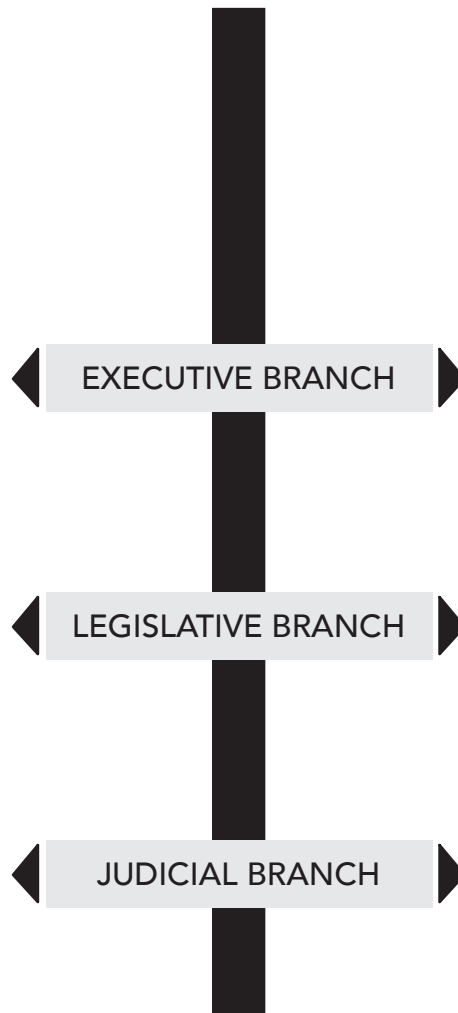
The Judicial Branch is led by the United States Supreme Court and is responsible for interpreting federal laws.



The Executive Branch is led by the **Governor** and is responsible for implementing state laws.

The Legislative Branch in Rhode Island is known as the **General Assembly** and is responsible for making state laws.

The Judicial Branch is led by the Rhode Island Supreme Court and is responsible for interpreting state laws.



Presidents, Governors, Senators, Representatives, and many city and town officials are elected by the people. This means that all voters have a say in who will run their government. When you turn 18 make sure your voice is heard by
VOTING!

MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT

Rhode Island cities and towns have many different forms of government, but most have someone in an executive branch role and groups of people who fill legislative roles. Together they make decisions about your community. Who makes up your local government?

EXECUTIVE

Depending on where you live, you might have a mayor, a town manager, or someone else who acts as the executive of your city or town.

Do you have a...

- ☐ Town Manager ☐ Mayor
☐ Town Administrator ☐ Other _____
☐ City Manager

Is this position...

- ☐ Elected
☐ Appointed

LEGISLATIVE

CITY/TOWN COUNCIL

In most municipalities, voters cast ballots for all of the council members, so a resident of a town with a five-person town council is allowed to vote for five people to fill those positions. In others, voters may only vote for one council member who will represent their neighborhood, or ward. In those instances, voters are sometimes also permitted to vote for additional council members who represent the entire municipality; they are called "at-large" council members.

How many people are on your town or city council?

How many council members do individual voters get to elect?

SCHOOL COMMITTEE/BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Rhode Island cities and towns also have School Committees or Boards of Trustees. They vote on issues like school uniforms, have the power to dedicate money for playgrounds and special programs, and make other important decisions about schools. In some cities and towns these officials are elected; in others they're appointed.

How many members does your School Committee or Board of Trustees have?

Are they elected or appointed?

- ☐ Elected
☐ Appointed



Now that you've learned about your local government, summarize what you've learned.

In _____
(your city/town)

we have a _____
(executive)

who is _____
(elected or appointed)

by _____.
(who does the electing or appointing?)

We have a _____
council. (city/town)

The council has _____ members.
(number of members)

I will be able to vote for _____
(number of members) members when I turn 18.

Decisions about my school are made by a _____.

(School Committee/Board of Trustees)

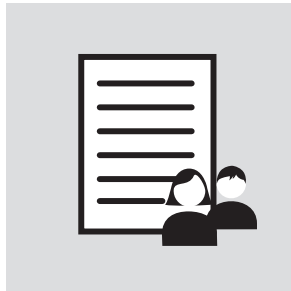
It has _____ members.
(number of members)

They are _____.
(elected/appointed)

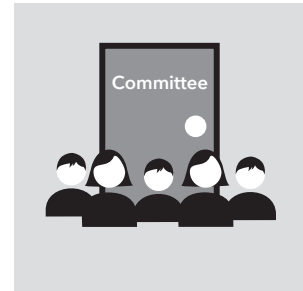
HOW A BILL BECOMES A LAW



Your idea can become a law!
Bring your idea to your local Senator or Representative.



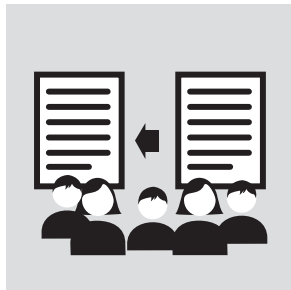
The bill is introduced.
The Senator or Representative may introduce your idea as a bill in his or her respective chamber.



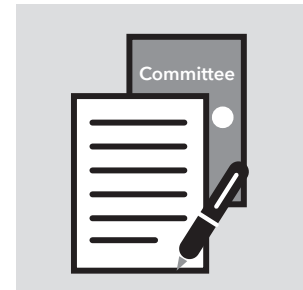
The bill is assigned to a committee.
Most bills are assigned to a committee for review.



The bill is approved.
If both chambers approve the bill, it is then submitted to the Governor.



The bill goes to both chambers.
Once the bill has been approved, it is transferred to the other chamber to undergo a similar process of review and approval.



The bill is analyzed.
The committee makes recommendations and returns the bill to the originating chamber where it is voted on.



At the Governor's desk...
If the Governor disapproves of the bill, he or she may veto it and return it to the legislature. If 3/5 of the Senators or Representatives approve the bill, it becomes a law without the Governor's approval.



The Governor approves the bill!
The Governor may sign the bill into law, or allow it to become effective without his or her signature.



Congratulations!
Your idea is now a law!

SPEAKING UP

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

Rhode Island, like the United States, has a representative democracy. That means we choose people to represent us in government by voting for them in elections. American citizens gain the right to vote when they turn 18. Voting is an important civic responsibility!

Even after election day, elected officials need to hear from the people that they represent.

WHAT IF...

Someone proposes
a bill with which
you really...

☐

agree

or

☐

disagree

What can
you do?

YOU CAN...



Contact your government officials by mail, email, or telephone, or speak with them in person to let them know what you think. Find their contact information at sos.ri.gov/govdirectory.



Write a letter to your newspaper explaining why you agree or disagree with the proposed bill.



Write a statement about the bill and ask people to sign it. This is called a petition.



Find people who agree with you and hold a peaceful demonstration or rally. Rhode Islanders of all ages come to the Rhode Island State House with signs to make sure their government knows what they want.



Give your opinion (testify) at a hearing. A hearing is when a committee of legislators gather to hear others' opinions of the proposed bill, and prepare to make a recommendation to the rest of the legislative body.









































After legislators have considered a proposed bill, they vote on it in the Rhode Island State House. You can watch the vote from the public galleries in the Senate and House of Representatives, or on Capitol TV, rilin.state.ri.us/captv.

THE ISSUES

WHO DOES WHAT?

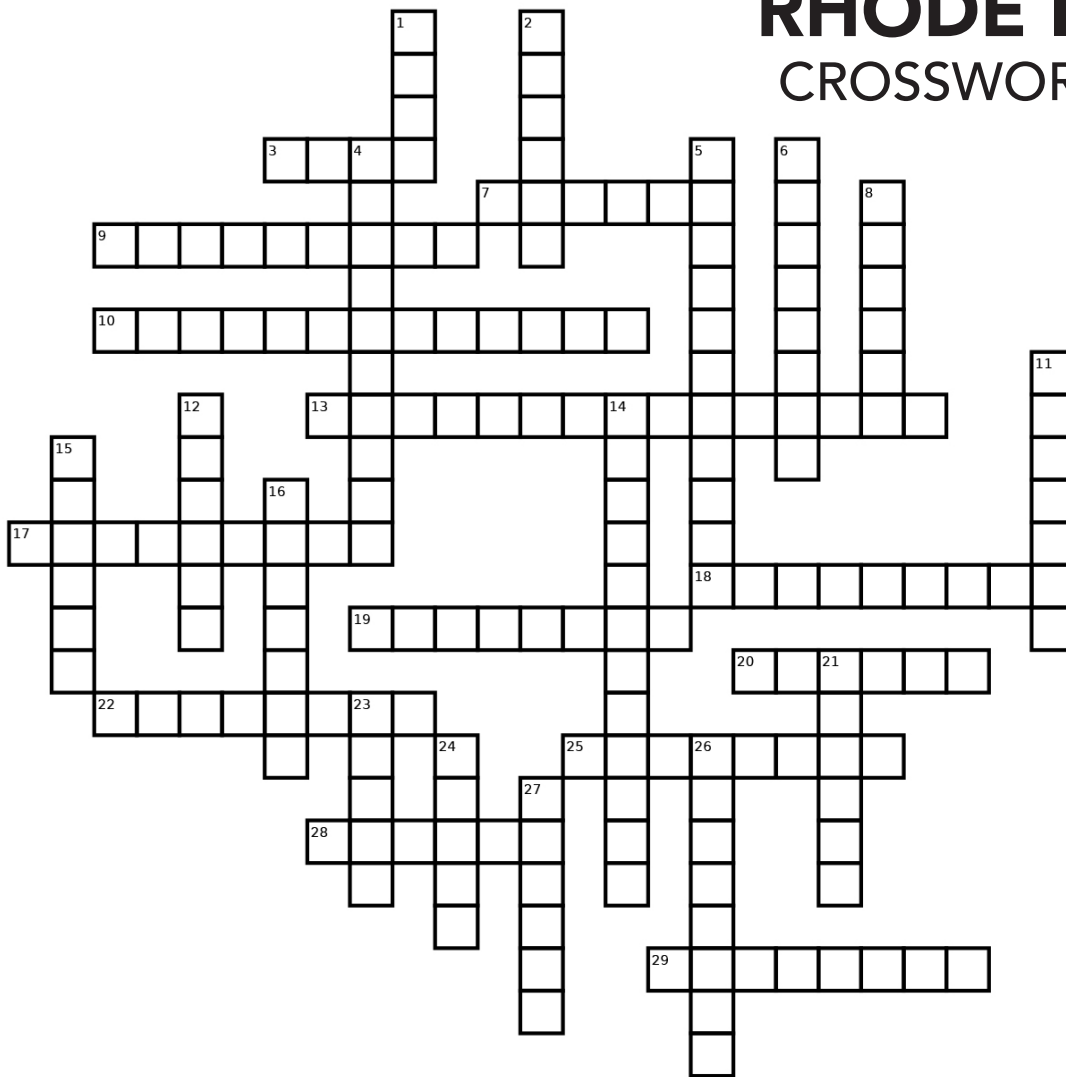
There are three levels of government: local, state, and federal. These different levels have different decision making responsibilities and powers.

If we want to bring about change on an issue that matters to us, we need to know which part of government oversees it.

				
		CITY/TOWN LOCAL	RHODE ISLAND STATE	UNITED STATES FEDERAL
		Mayor Town Administrator City/town Council School Committee	Governor General Officers State Representatives State Senators	President Vice President US Representatives US Senators
 EDUCATION	School uniforms			
	School days required			
	Time for recess			
 ENVIRONMENT	Expand recycling			
	Ban smoking on beaches			
	Provide clean drinking water			
 PUBLIC SAFETY	More crosswalks			
	Drunk driving laws			
	Laws about guns			
 ECONOMY	Affordable housing			
	Taxes			
	Creating jobs			
 TRANSPORTATION	More bike paths			
	Public busses and trains			
	Better sidewalks			

RHODE ISLAND

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS

3. State motto.
7. One half of the legislative branch.
9. Indigenous tribe in Rhode Island; the _____ Trail is named after them.
10. Colonial founder of Providence; introduced religious freedom to the colonies.
13. House of _____; one half of the legislative branch.
17. Someone who runs for office.
18. Branch of government that upholds laws.
19. The right to vote.
20. Symbol of Rhode Island; found on the RI flag.
22. Leads the executive branch of state government.
25. General _____; Rhode Island's legislative branch.
28. A list of candidates for public office; where citizens can indicate their choices in elections.
29. A letter signed by many people in favor, or against, a proposed law.

DOWN

1. Rhode Island's State House has a very big one of these; the Independent Man stands on top of it.
2. Ship burned by Rhode Islanders in the lead-up to the Revolutionary War.
4. Capitol of Rhode Island.
5. Branch of government that makes laws.
6. Painting of a person; the Rhode Island State House has many of these hanging on its walls.
8. The Rhode Island State House is made of this stone.
11. Royal _____; document that granted Rhode Islanders freedom of religion.
12. The way we choose people to represent us in government.
14. Indigenous tribe in Rhode Island; we have a town and a bay named after them.
15. Samuel _____; built the first water powered textile mill in America in Pawtucket, RI.
16. Public seating area in the Senate and House of Representatives.
21. An upright support pillar; the State House has many!
23. The _____ State; Rhode Island's nickname.
24. A peaceful demonstration in favor, or against, a cause.
26. Minimum age to run for state office in Rhode Island.
27. Gilbert _____; a famous Rhode Island artist who painted George Washington.

RHODE ISLAND

MATCHING GAME

- | | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| 1. The number of state senators in Rhode Island | _____ Roger Williams |
| 2. Guaranteed Rhode Island settlers freedom of religion and freedom to govern their own colony | _____ Hope |
| 3. Colonial founder of Rhode Island | _____ Seventy-five |
| 4. Presiding officer of the House of Representatives | _____ The Rhode Island State House |
| 5. Our state's motto | _____ Gilbert Stuart |
| 6. Our state's nickname | _____ President of the Senate |
| 7. Number of state representatives in Rhode Island | _____ Royal Charter of 1663 |
| 8. Stands watch over our State Capitol | _____ Thirty-eight |
| 9. Has the fourth largest self-supported marble dome in the world | _____ The Ocean State |
| 10. Rhode Island native and artist of the most famous painting in the State House | _____ Speaker of the House |
| 11. Presiding officer of the Senate | _____ The Independent Man |

CAN YOU SOLVE THESE?

How long has the Slater Mill existed?
(Hint: review page 9)

?

If the 16 seals in the Library each weigh 43 pounds, how much do all 16 seals weigh?

X

How many years has it been since Roger Williams came to Rhode Island?
(Hint: review page 3)

?

If the RI State House is 330' long and 180' wide, what is its area?

X

How many decades are represented in the timeline on page 4? How many years?

?

What percentage of the elected officials on page 13 are women?

%

VOCABULARY

Act	A bill passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives; acts become laws.
Amend	To change a proposed bill.
Ballot	A paper used for recording a vote; a list of candidates in an election.
Bill	An idea that someone proposes as a new law; if passed, a bill becomes an act.
Campaign	An organized effort to win an election.
Candidate	Someone who runs for political office.
Congress	The legislative branch of the federal government; the US Congress is made up of the Senate and the House of Representatives.
Constituent	Voter; someone who is represented in government.
Debate	Discussion about proposed laws in the Senate and House of Representatives.
Democracy	A government that is run by the people, or by representatives elected by the people.
Federal	Related to national governance.
Gallery	Areas in the Senate and House of Representatives chambers, reserved for the public to watch the legislative session.
General Assembly	Rhode Island's legislative branch.
Hearing	A meeting when legislators hear comments from the public and discuss proposed laws.
House of Representatives	One chamber of Rhode Island's General Assembly; it has 75 members.
Legislation	A bill or set of bills.
Legislator	Someone who is elected to represent citizens in the Senate or House of Representatives.
Lobbyist	A person or organization advocating to support or oppose proposed bills or policy decisions.
Primary	An election held to determine which candidate will represent a political party for a given office in a general or special election.
Rally	A peaceful demonstration in support of, or against, an idea.
Rostrum	Desk of the Senate President or Speaker of the House of Representatives.
Suffrage	The right to vote.
Testify	To give your opinion at a hearing.
Senate	One chamber of Rhode Island's General Assembly; it has 38 members.
Veto	The right of the executive branch (President or Governor) to reject a law passed by the legislative branch (Congress or the General Assembly); if the executive vetoes a bill, then it goes back to the legislative branch where they may try to pass it again.



Nellie M. Gorbea
Secretary of State

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